GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2605
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2017
Substandard Chemicals and Fertilizers/Seeds
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take action against the companies manufacturing substandard/fake pesticides, seeds and chemical fertilizers besides banning the sale of the said items of these companies before suspending and cancelling the licenses of the traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Under the provision of the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Central and State Government have notified 182 and 13403 number of Insecticides Inspectors respectively, to carry out inspection of manufacturing, storage and sale points etc., draw samples of pesticides and have them analysed with the help of notified Pesticide Analysts. Prosecution is initiated in competent Courts of law in cases of violation of the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968. This Act has also vested State Governments with legal authority to investigate complaints and take legal action against offenders. As per the information provided from the States, a total of 47954 samples were analysed in 2016-17, out of which 2.45 % (1177) were found to be misbranded. The details are at Annexure I.

The Fertilizers (Control) Order, 1985 regulate the trade, price, quality and distribution of fertilizers. State governments are adequately empowered under this Act to take appropriate administrative and legal actions against those dealers/manufacturers/importers who do not comply with the provisions. Further, samples of Fertilizer are drawn periodically by the Fertilizer Inspectors of the State Governments from retailers/wholesalers and manufacturing units etc. for testing in the notified laboratories to check their quality. During 2016-17, 5.1% samples were reported non-standard. The Details are at Annexure II.

The Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rules, 1968 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1893 have sufficient provisions to check the sale of sub-standard and spurious seeds. States are empowered to take punitive action against such companies and seed traders. The Seed law enforcement report for 2016-17 is at Annexure III.

(c): The question does not arise.